

EXPLORING NATURE



dlr Biodiversity Events

April-June 2016

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE



April

Sunday 3rd April

Wild kidz – stingers and catapults

10am–11.30am Marlay Park. Grange Road entrance, meet in the main car park.

A survival event for kids (6 –12yr olds). Come along and make your very own catapults using natural material then take part in a target challenge. For the child that loves the outdoors and going wild. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place

Sunday 10th April

The importance of hedgerows

10am Shanganagh Park. Meet beside the car park notice board. Adults walk and talk. Everything you need to know about hedges from choosing the best ones for wildlife to pruning and maintenance. We will take a good look at the important role hedges provide as wildlife habitats and the beauty they can add to our gardens. **Leader:** Aoife 087 985 2858

Sunday 17th April

Teddy bears picnic for tots

10am–11.30am Cabinteely Park. Meet beside the main car park. Bring along your teddy and join the OWLS leaders as they discover nature through a walk in the park before sitting down for a picnic and story time. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS **Booking required:** Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place



May

Sunday 1st May

Rock pooling for families

12.30pm–2pm Sandycove. Meet beside small section of beach. Come along to this event and discover life amongst the rock pools using nets and buckets, whilst helping the OWLS leaders catalogue the species found at this time of year. A fun discovery event for the whole family. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place

Tuesday 3rd May

How to make your bird records count

8pm Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney Hill Road, Killiney. Stephen McAvoy of the British Trust of Ornithology informs listeners of the benefits of keeping bird records and how they can assist with conservation. **Leader:** BirdWatch Ireland. For further information contact Eleanor Keane 087 6446029

Sunday 8th May

In search of sub-Saharan visitors

10.30am–12.30pm. Meet in the Killiney Hill car park. On the lookout for summer warblers who have wintered in Sub Sahara and possibly hear a Cuckoo with members of BirdWatch Ireland. **Leader:** BirdWatch Ireland. For further information contact Eleanor Keane 087 6446029

Sunday 15th May

Family den building challenge

10am–11.30am Fitzsimons Wood. Meet at the green, second left turn, Kilcross Estate. Is your family up for a challenge? Then how about coming along to this event and building a family shelter using natural material found around the woodland? The shelter must be large enough for the children to fit in and strong enough to withstand the 10-second shake. Prizes for the best (and worst!) shelters. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS. **Booking required:** Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place

May/June

Sunday 22nd May

Nature treasure hunt

10am Deer Park. Mount Anville Road entrance.

Can you find all of the natural treasures in the park? Come along and join the hunt as we walk, talk and learn about the wildlife in your local park. From tiny seeds caught in the wind to hidden homes for little creatures we will find them all. For great explorers there are prizes to be won. **Leader:** Aoife 087 985 2858

June

Saturday 4th June

Biomimicry – what we can learn from nature?

12 noon–2pm Marlay Park. Meet inside the courtyard. Join us for a walk through Marlay Park and discover the genius of the natural world. Learn about the innovative topic of Biomimicry and how we can look to nature for ideas for new sustainable designs and technologies. **Leader:** Sophie Nicol, Earthwise Education. **Booking required:** Text Sophie on 086 851 4393 to reserve your place



June

Saturday 11th June

Back to basics

10am–12 noon Fitzsimons Wood. Meet at the green, second left turn, Kilcross Estate. Adult and teen woodlands taster session. Wilderness is everywhere, even our seemingly tame parks have a lot to offer. Try your hand at making rope from nettles, wild tea and learn about woodland wildlife. This is a great event for teens and older. **Leader:** Kate Egan, Presentation Ecology (086 7743234)

Sunday 12th June

Mini beast, creepy crawlies, yucky things...!

10am–11.30am Fitzsimons Wood. Meet at the green, second left turn, Kilcross Estate. Armed with bug jars and nets we will be heading off into the park and in search of six-legged creatures. A nature event learning about insects. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS
Booking required: Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place

Sunday 19th June

It's a knockout – a family fun games day

10am –11.30am Ballawley Park. Meet at the Parkvale entrance. Come along to the family fun event and take part in races such as egg and spoon, wheelbarrow, relay, wellies throwing, tug of war and much more. A fun event with lots of laughs. **Leader:** Andrew (Mouse) Fleming, OWLS
Booking required: Text Andrew on 087 3299936 to reserve your place

Saturday 25th June

Make your own pot and plant a seed

10am Shankill Library. For anyone young or old, come and learn how to make your own pots, plant seeds and learn about the best plants for your garden. Plenty of advice available for anyone looking to get started in the garden and lots to keep younger children interested too. **Leader:** Aoife 087 985 2858

Further Information

Many events require pre-booking so please contact the event leader where stated.

For enquiries please call Dean Eaton (Asst. Environmental Awareness Officer) 01 204 7900 or email deaton@drlrcoco.ie. Individuals and families are welcome. Please dress appropriately for outdoor activities and the weather on the day.

Events have been organised by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in association with a variety of charities, clubs and individuals whose primary interest is natural history and nature conservation. All events will be led by experienced naturalists from these organisations.



OWLS (Outdoor, Wildlife, Learning and Survival)

OWLS is a fun club for children and families to discover more about nature. The club delivers a range of activities in local parks to raise awareness and understanding of the natural world. For more information visit: www.owls.ie



BirdWatch Ireland is a conservation organisation dedicated to the conservation of wild birds and their habitats in Ireland. Their work includes extensive research and surveying, conservation projects, preparing and advocating policy and raising awareness. For more information visit: www.birdwatchireland.ie

Aoife Munn is an RHS trained horticulturist who teaches horticulture in primary schools with an emphasis on environmental protection. Aoife also lectures in horticulture, gives talks to gardening groups, sets up allotments and provides horticultural therapy.

<https://www.facebook.com/irish.environmental.education>



Presentation Ecology works to promote ecoliteracy, personal and social sustainability. We advocate on behalf of the natural world and its citizens for a right to a healthy, sustainable and beautiful environment. www.ecopresireland.com



Earthwise Education works with schools, communities and organisations all over Ireland to increase environmental awareness and engagement through hands-on workshops and action projects, aiming to inspire a positive relationship between people and their environment.